



Siksika Family Services Corporation

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Request for Community Consultation Task Force Applications: Bill C-92 and Siksika Specific Legislation for Children and Family Services

Currently, Indigenous children are disproportionately over-represented in Canada's Children and Family services across the country with Alberta being no exception. Statistics show that in Alberta the Indigenous population is 6.5% of the total population, but 69% of the children in care are Indigenous.

The system as it currently stands fails to recognize and prevent the cultural deterioration and resultant harm that is still occurring in Indigenous communities. The Provincial Children Youth and Family Enhancement Act of Alberta (CYFEA) does very little to protect our culture for our children currently in the system –in many ways the CYFEA acts as an obstacle to reunification and enables non-Siksika foster parents to adopt our children with very little-to-no mechanisms in place that protect the Siksika way of life for our children.

There has long been a critical need for a children and family services model that prioritizes Indigenous culture and community in the life of an Indigenous child; a model that allows Indigenous communities to assume jurisdiction over the care of their own children in accordance with their own laws and traditions. Bill C-92 - a new federal legislation geared toward Indigenous children and families came into effect on January 1, 2020. **One of the main features of Bill C-92 is that it allows Indigenous communities to exercise their inherent jurisdiction over the care of their own children and families in accordance with their own traditional laws and values by developing their own legislation** – legislation that will be binding on the provinces and carry with it the full force of the federal government. Siksika Family Services Corporation (SFSC), under the direction of Siksika Chief and Council is developing legislation that will prioritize Siksika way of life for our children.

We are looking for members of the Siksika community to sit on a task force to review legislation that is being developed and provide feedback to the technicians. All are welcome to apply, special preference will be given to those applicants who: know Siksika culture and language, have backgrounds in social work, former or current foster parents, former children who have passed through a foster home(s)/group home(s), applicants with experience in drafting and or reviewing legislation, educators and elders.

If interested please send a résumé and cover letter describing why you wish to participate to:

Councillor Samuel Crowfoot J.D.
Siksika Nation Chief and Council
Chair - SFSC Board of Directors
Siksika Nation Tribal Administration P.O. Box
1100, Siksika Nation, AB, T0J 3W0
Email: samuelc@siksikanation.com

Deadline to Apply: July 16, 2021.